

## **MONTANA SEXUAL ASSAULT DATA**

Montana has several ways it tracks sexual assault, dating violence, and rape data. Below are links to the various state agencies that compile data on sexual violence.

### **Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)**

YRBS is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and is administered in Montana by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). All public schools in Montana with students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to be selected for inclusion in the YRBS sample. Fifty schools are randomly selected and then schools elect to participate. While the survey does not focus solely on sexual violence, it does include key questions that shed light on Montana teen behavior with regard to gender violence. On the 2009 survey,

- 9.2% of Montana teens said that they had "been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they didn't want to."
- 9.6% of Montana teens said that they were "hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months."

For more information about the YRBS survey and its findings, please visit [www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS](http://www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS) or [www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs)

### **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) receives funds in a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to operate the state-based Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Conducted annually, the BRFSS is a phone survey of Montanans 18 years old and older. The 2007 BRFSS Report states that "34,495 Montana adults reported being a victim of sex against their will or without consent," and that Montana "females (11%) were almost four times more likely to be victims of attempted rape than males (3%) in their lifetime." For more information about the BRFSS survey and its finding, please visit [www.brfss.mt.gov](http://www.brfss.mt.gov).

### **Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)**

MBCC annually tracks all crimes reported to Montana law enforcement. The July 2009 *Crime in Montana 2007-2008 Report* states that, "the volume and rate of rape offenses reported by non-Tribal jurisdictions in Montana remained relatively unchanged from 2007 to 2008. The rape rate peaked in 2005, steadily decreased, and is now returned to 2004 levels. The rape rate is up 50.2% over a thirty year period. Out of the seven index crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft), rape is the only offense category that has shown a marked increase over the last thirty years."

Year	Number of Offenses	Crime Rate per 100,000
1979	183	23.7
1999	293	37.1
2004	324	35.5
2007	335	36.0
2008	337	35.6

For more information about sexual assault crimes reported to Montana law enforcement and the MBCC, please visit [www.mbcc.mt.gov/crimerport](http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/crimerport).

### **Montana Prevention Needs Assessment (MPNA)**

The MPNA is produced through Montana's Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). The MPNA tracks information on needs and resources found in Montana with regard to risk factors for substance abuse and other dangerous behaviors. While the MPNA doesn't directly address sexual assault issues, it does catalog data on risk factors regarding perpetration of sexual assault. For example, a risk factor for perpetration of sexual violence is alcohol use (see <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.htm>). By working on lowering the incidence of alcohol use in high-risk age groups (12-24 year olds) we may be able to lower the incidences of sexual assault in Montana. For more information on the MPNA, please visit <http://www.prevention.mt.gov/pna/default.asp>

### **Clery Act Crime Data from Post-Secondary Institutions**

All post-secondary institutions that receive federal funding are required by the Clery Act to report annual crime statistics. Montana has over 30 post-secondary institutions (including two and four year colleges and universities as well as several technical and cosmetology schools) most of which receive some form of federal funding. While states don't have a specific agency that collects and collates this data, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) does. The DOE has created "The Campus Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool." With this instrument, researchers simply click on "Get data for one institution" and then type in the name of the institution they are investigating. This instrument can be found at <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.

Other useful websites for information on sexual violence at post-secondary institutions include

- The Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women at [www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov)
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Post Secondary Education, Campus Security at [www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus)
- Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention at [www.higheredcenter.org/](http://www.higheredcenter.org/)
- Security on Campus Inc. at [www.securityoncampus.org](http://www.securityoncampus.org)